Please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

F1

1. (Twice Amended) A specific binding protein selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a monoclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a polyclonal antibody, a hybrid antibody, and a single chain antibody, which specifically binds to native canine B cell-bound IgE, and which does not bind to IgE when the IgE is bound to a receptor on a mast cell.

F2 Sub 6 7

6. (Twice Amended) A specific binding protein selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a monoclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a polyclonal antibody, a hybrid antibody, and a single chain antibody, which specifically binds to an isolated and purified peptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4.

F3

8. (Twice Amended) The specific binding protein of claim 15 wherein at least one amino acid substitution is an amino acid with an aromatic ring.

Sub 6 3

F4

15. (Twice Amended) A specific binding protein selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a monoclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a polyclonal antibody, a hybrid antibody, and a single chain antibody which specifically binds an isolated and purified peptide comprising an amino acid sequence which comprises Thr-Leu-Leu-Glu-Tyr-Arg-Met (SEQ ID NO:4), or a variant thereof, wherein the variant comprises an amino acid substitution at amino acid positions 4, 5, or both 4 and 5.

F5

16. (Amended) The specific binding protein of claim 15 that binds to a defined epitope.

F6 Sub 6 4 7

21. (Twice Amended) A specific binding protein selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a monoclonal antibody, an antigen-binding fragment of a polyclonal antibody, a hybrid antibody, and a single chain antibody, which specifically binds an isolated and purified peptide comprising an amino acid sequence which comprises Gly-Met-Asn-Leu-Thr-Trp-Tyr-Arg-Glu-Ser-Lys (SEQ ID NO:5), or a variant thereof, wherein the variant comprises an amino acid substitution at amino acid position number 5, 6, or both 5 and 6.

F7

22. (Amended) The specific binding protein of claim 21 that binds to a defined epitope.

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